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LETTER DATED 15 MARCH 2000 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have been instructed by my Government to lodge a protest over the actions taken today (15 March) by the Kosovo Force (KFOR) to establish an extended security zone in northern Kosovska Mitrovica in the town quarter called Bosnjacka mahala. The Serbian civilians, gathered around the so-called Mali most (Little Bridge), were assailed with stun grenades and tear gas. As a consequence, 16 of them were injured, two seriously. Mrs. Olivera Matic had her left foot amputated, while Mr. Dragan Pelevic had a heel smashed.

By these actions KFOR continues to assist ethnic Albanian terrorists and extremists in putting pressure on the Serbian population to move out of Kosovo and Metohija, the autonomous province of the Yugoslav constituent Republic of Serbia, aimed at ethnically cleansing it.

The said actions of KFOR, carried out in conjunction with the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) constitutes a flagrant violation of the provisions of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) of 10 June 1999 and runs counter to their mandates. Instead of creating a secure environment and freedom of movement for all residents of Kosovo and Metohija, KFOR and UNMIK continue to function as catalysts of the separatist cause of Albanian terrorists and extremists, de facto assisting them in the ethnic cleansing of Serbs and other non-Albanians from northern Kosovska Mitrovica as well.

The Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia expects the Security Council to take urgent and resolute steps to ensure minimum security and relatively normal living conditions to the Serbian population in Kosovska Mitrovica, the last Serbian refuge in Kosovo and Metohija, since KFOR and UNMIK failed to provide any other during their nine-month presence in this Serbian province.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vladislav JOVANOVIC
Chargé d'affaires a.i